

The LECs had opportunities for literally decades to deploy new digital services such as ISDN with little to show for it. With the Telecommunications act of 1996 in the space of a few years we have seen an explosion, (and an implosion) in new services. These services have not had the chance to mature and develop. In these harsh economic times we risk throwing out the winners along with the losers if we change the rules now. The LECs must be required to allow their competitors to use the essential facilities. Those facilities were built and paid for by the subscribers at low risk to the LECs. They should maintain a stable playing field to allow the true winners a chance to mature.